

XXVII.—*On some new Species of Araneidea, with Characters of a new Genus.* By the Rev. O. P. CAMBRIDGE, M.A., C.M.Z.S., &c.

[Plate XIII.]

THE spiders described here are all European, having been sent to me nearly two years ago by Dr. Ludwig Koch, by whom they were found near Nuremberg.

It must be a matter of profound regret to all arachnologists that this able author should be incapacitated (I fear permanently) for further arachnological studies by a malady which has seriously affected his sight.

Family Theridiidæ.

AULETTA, gen. nov.

This genus is closely allied to *Neriene*, Bl.; but the spider on which it is founded can hardly be contained in any of the genera into which the large assemblage of spiders now included in *Neriene* must inevitably be some day subdivided.

Cephalothorax oblong-oval, much longer than broad, very deeply excavated or indented at its posterior extremity; the lateral marginal constrictions of the caput are gradual.

Eyes as in *Neriene*.

Legs subequal, moderate in length and strength, apparently 4, 1, 2, 3, or 1, 4, 2, 3, furnished with hairs and very slender bristles only, each tarsus terminating with three claws.

Falces rather long, strong, and projecting forwards, armed with a few sharp teeth on their inner sides near the extremity; fang short and weak.

Maxillæ tolerably long, subparallel, nearly straight, very slightly and obliquely truncated at their extremity on the outer side.

Labium somewhat oblong, and half the length of the maxillæ.

Sternum large, of a somewhat oblong heart-shape, nearly as broad as long.

Auletta excavata, sp. n. (Pl. XIII. fig. 1.)

Adult female, length $\frac{1}{3}$ of an inch.

The whole of the fore part of this spider is of a yellow-brown colour, slightly tinged with reddish.

The *cephalothorax* is margined by a slender black line, and has a remarkable appearance, owing to the extensive excavation of its posterior extremity; in other respects its form is

ordinary enough, the profile line of the upper side forming a tolerably regular convex curve. The height of the clypeus is less than half that of the facial space.

The *eyes* are of fair size and rather closely grouped together. Those of the hind central pair are the largest, and are separated by less than a diameter's interval, each being still closer to the hind lateral eye on its side. The four posterior eyes form a straight line. The fore central pair, together with those of the two lateral pairs, forming a strong and even curved line, whose convexity is directed forwards. Those of the fore central pair are nearly contiguous both to each other and to the fore laterals.

The *abdomen* is of a rather short-oval shape, very convex above, and fits into the posterior thoracic excavation; it is of a dark brownish-black hue, clothed with rather longer than ordinary slender hairs.

The spinners are short, compact, and of a yellow-brown colour. The genital aperture (owing to some shrinking of the adjacent parts) was not easy to make out satisfactorily; the figure given, however, is, I think, tolerably correct.

This spider, whose remarkably excavated thorax has chiefly induced me to found a new genus upon it, was kindly sent to me from Nuremberg by Dr. L. Koch, by whom it was found in that neighbourhood.

Genus WALCKENAËRA, Bl.

Walckenaëra antepenultima, sp. n. (Pl. XIII. fig. 3.)

Adult male, length $\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{3}$ of an inch.

The whole of the fore part of this minute spider is yellow-brown, the legs rather paler than the rest, and the abdomen tinged with sooty brown.

The *cephalothorax* is of ordinary form; the lateral constriction on each side at the caput is very slight, and the profile line forms a pretty even curve to the fore part of the ocular area; the caput is thus not abruptly raised above the rest. The height of the clypeus is less than one third of that of the facial space; and from behind each lateral pair of eyes a narrow somewhat three-cornered indentation runs backwards; and there is a curved (indented?) line close in front of the thoracic junction.

The *eyes* are small and form an area nearly as long as it is broad at its fore extremity. Those of the fore central pair are very minute, contiguous to each other, and (with those of the two lateral pairs) form a curved line whose convexity is

directed forwards. Those of the posterior pair are separated from each other by slightly more than an eye's diameter, this interval being less than that which divides each from the hind lateral eyes on its side.

The *legs* are rather slender, not very long, thinly clothed with fine hairs; and their relative length appears to be 1, 4, 2, 3.

The *falces* are not very strong, moderately long, vertical, and a little divergent at their extremities.

The *palpi* are short, the radial and cubital joints about equal in length; but the former is much the strongest; its fore part on the upperside is rather produced; and its extremity is indented, leaving two small points or projections, of which that on the inner side is longer, stronger, and more obtuse than the other. The digital joint is rather large, of a somewhat roundish form, rather flattened or truncate at its fore extremity. The palpal organs are not very complex, consisting chiefly of two rather strong reddish yellow-brown, curved, continuous processes. A long slender, tapering, black, filiform spine runs from the inner side beneath and round the margin, and across the fore extremity of the digital joint, projecting rather prominently from the outer extremity, its fine thread-like point in contact with some whitish membrane.

The *maxille* and *labium* are of normal form, and call for no special notice.

The *sternum* is large, considerably convex, and very glossy.

The *abdomen* is oval, very convex above, and glossy; it had (so far as I could see) no hairy clothing, though perhaps the hairs were originally very few and fine and had been rubbed off.

A single example of this little spider was also sent to me some time ago by Dr. Ludwig Koch, by whom it was found near Nuremberg. It is allied to *Walckenaëra præcox*, Cambr., and also to *W. subitanea*, Cambr., and to *Erigone pallens*, Cambr., but may easily be distinguished by the position of the eyes, the form of the radial joints of the palpi, and the structure of the palpal organs.

Walckenaëra orbiculata, sp. n. (Pl. XIII. fig. 2.)

Adult male, length $\frac{1}{18}$ of an inch.

The cephalothorax, legs, palpi, and falces of this spider are of a yellowish hue, slightly tinged with brown; the cephalothorax is margined by a fine black line, and the tibiæ and metatarsi of the first pair of legs (with the tibiæ of the second pair, which are less deeply tinged) of a deep yellow-brown hue;

the abdomen is of a dull drab colour, slightly suffused with sooty brown.

The *cephalothorax* is very short and of a nearly circular form, being, in fact, slightly broader than long and with no lateral constrictions at the caput; this portion is greatly elevated, the elevation directed backwards, rounded behind, flattish, sloping in front from the summit to the eyes, and marked off from the caput by a very strong, deep, tapering, horizontal indentation, which runs backwards from just above each lateral pair of eyes. The height of the clypeus is half that of the facial space; it projects forwards at its lower part, following very nearly the same general slope as that of the ocular area, along the middle of which last are a few short divergent hairs.

The *eyes* are of moderate size and seated on black spots; they form a large quadrangular figure whose length is equal to its breadth at the lower part, the upper side (formed by the posterior pair of eyes) being shortest. Those of the posterior (or upper) pair are placed on the fore part of the upperside of the cephalic eminence, and are separated from each other by a little more than a diameter's interval; and those of the lateral pairs together with the fore centrals form very nearly a straight transverse line.

The *legs* are rather long, moderate in strength (4, 1, 2, 3), and clothed only with hairs and a very few slender erect bristles or strong hairs.

The *palpi* are of moderate length. The cubital and radial joints are short and of equal length; the latter has its fore side produced into a very prominent, rather strong, tapering apophysis, whose pointed extremity is slightly hooked or abruptly bent downwards. The digital joint is rather large, of an irregular oval form, with a somewhat conical prominence near its base on the edge of the inner side. The palpal organs are tolerably complex, with two strong, obtuse, prominent corneous processes; and their extremity is furnished with a long, slender, but conspicuous black, filiform, boldly and sinuously curved spine, which, issuing from their outer side and passing beneath them, curves round and over their inner side.

The *falces* are small, straight, conical, and very strongly directed backwards towards the sternum, which is of a subtriangular form, somewhat suffused with a sooty hue, and margined with a black line.

The *abdomen* is of moderate size, oval, and projects greatly over the thorax.

This very distinct species was also sent to me from Nuremberg by Dr. L. Koch. It bears a strong resemblance at first

sight to *W. ludicra*, Cambr., but is larger*; the caput is proportionally less high; and the form and structure of the palpi and palpal organs are quite different.

Genus LINYPHIA, Latr.

Linyphia misera, sp. n.

Linyphia turbatrix, Cambr. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., Sept. 1879, p. 206.

In naming this spider (*l. c. suprà*), the fact that the name "*turbatrix*" had been conferred two years before upon an arctic species (*l. c.* October 1877, p. 281) was overlooked; it becomes therefore necessary to rename the British species, upon which the name "*misera*" is now conferred.

List of Spiders.

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| <i>Auletta excavata</i> , sp. n., p. 258,
Pl. XIII. fig. 1. | <i>Walckenaëra antepenultima</i> , sp. n.,
p. 259, Pl. XIII. fig. 3. |
| <i>Walckenaëra orbiculata</i> , sp. n.,
p. 260, Pl. XIII. fig. 2. | <i>Linyphia misera</i> , sp. n., p. 262. |

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XIII.

- Fig. 1. *Auletta* (g. n.) *excavata*, sp. n., p. 258. *a*, spider, enlarged; *b*, ditto, in profile, without legs or palpi; *c*, ditto, from above; *d*, maxillæ, labium, and sternum; *e*, genital aperture; *f*, natural length of spider.
- Fig. 2. *Walckenaëra orbiculata*, sp. n., p. 260. *a*, spider, enlarged; *b*, ditto, in profile, without legs or palpi; *c*, caput and falces, from in front; *d*, right palpus, from in front on the inner side; *e*, natural length of spider.
- Fig. 3. *Walckenaëra antepenultima*, sp. n., p. 259. *a*, outline of spider, from above, without legs or palpi; *b*, ditto, in profile; *c*, caput, from above and behind; *d*, left palpus, from in front; *e*, ditto, from above, in front and rather sideways; *f*, natural length of spider.

XXVIII.—*Ninth Contribution to the Knowledge of the Fauna of Madagascar* †. By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER, F.R.S.

THE following new species of reptiles were obtained, with many others previously described, by the Rev. Deans Cowan,

* Though, from the shortness of the cephalothorax and the projecting of the abdomen so much over it, the spider is in reality no longer than *W. ludicra*, Cambr.

† 7. "Description of a new Snake from Madagascar," Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1873, xi. p. 374.

8. "Seventh Contribution to the Knowledge of the Fauna of Madagascar," *ibid.* 1881, vii. p. 357.